

Remarks

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 – 8, 10, 12, 13 – 15, 18, 20 – 23, 25, 28 and 29 are amended. Claims 30 – 44 are added. Claims 2, 9, 17, 24 and 27 are cancelled. Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that the information disclosure statement (IDS) filed on November 7, 2000 with the present application was lacking a Form PTO-1449 and was therefore not considered. Enclosed are photocopies of the IDS cover, Form PTO-1449 and return postcard indicating receipt of the Form PTO-1449 with the filing of this application. Accordingly, no new fees should be incurred for resubmission of the Form PTO-1449. The applicants respectfully request consideration of the reference cited in the IDF in the examination of the present application.

The Examiner objected to the title as not being descriptive. The applicants have amended the title to be more descriptive of aspects of the claimed subject matter. The applicants respectfully submit that the title is now in proper form.

The Examiner objected to the labeling in Figure 1 of component 8 as "non-volatile memory" while making reference to the component 8 as "NVM" in portions of the specification. The applicants respectfully point out that, as indicated by the parenthetical introduction of the acronym "NVM" at line 7 of page 4 of the specification, the acronym "NVM" may be used interchangeably with the phrase "non-volatile memory," either in the specification or the drawings. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that both the specification and Figure 1 make consistent reference to the component 8, and that no further amendment is required.

The Examiner indicated that claims 2, 7, 9, 14, 17, 22, 24 and 29 set forth allowable subject matter but that such claims are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The applicants thank the Examiner for consideration and positive disposition of these claims notwithstanding the noted objections.

Additionally, Examiner rejected claims 1, 3 – 6, 10 – 13, 15, 16, 18 – 21, 23 and 25 – 28 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,189,114 to Orr (the "'114 patent"). The applicants have amended claim 1 to include the following limitations which are similar to those in cancelled claim 2 (deemed to recite allowable subject matter):

inhibiting the operating system from remapping the machine-readable instructions for performing the one or more diagnostic procedures.

Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, and claims 3 – 7 depending therefrom, distinguish over the '114 patent. Claims 8, 10 – 16, 18 – 23, 25, 26, 28 and 29 now recite limitations similar to those in claim 1 which are quoted above. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that these claims similarly distinguish over the '114 patent.

New claim 30 includes the following limitations which are similar to those in claim 7 (deemed to recite allowable subject matter):

maintaining pointers in the firmware interface to the diagnostic modules at an addressable portion of the storage medium; and

converting pointers in the firmware interface in response to a change in virtual addressing by the operating system.

Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 30, and claims 31 – 34 depending therefrom, distinguish over the '114 patent. New claims 35 – 44 recite limitations similar to those in claim 30 which are quoted above. Accordingly, the

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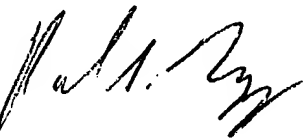
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applicants respectfully submit that these claims similarly distinguish over the '114 patent.

The applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in form for allowance. Reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested. Please charge Deposit Account #02-2666 for the addition of claims 31 – 35 and any other fee payment deficiencies associated with this case. If the Examiner finds that this case is in any way not in proper form for allowance, the applicants request that the Examiner contact the applicants' representative at (310) 252-7621.

Respectfully submitted,

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by 

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